

realization of these programs' potential: the fact that there are not enough of them, and in a time when patients regularly cross state lines seeking treatment, existing program can not yet effectively share information across state lines.

This bill provides states with the resources and guidance they need to make important progress toward minimizing the abuse and diversion of prescription medications while ensuring patients' access to timely, effective treatment, and I urge you to join us in supporting it.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NINTH ANNUAL WORLD CONGRESS IN AMMAN, JORDAN

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, next week, from June 2-6, 2005, the Center for Civic Education will host the Ninth Annual World Congress on Civic Education in Amman, Jordan. Nearly 200 civic education leaders will attend this event, representing 58 countries and 28 U.S. States.

The purpose of the World Congress is to share information about the best practices and materials developed through Civitas: An International Civic Education Exchange Program, an authorized program of the No Child Left Behind Act. The program addresses the full range of civic education activities. These include the development of educational policy, standards, curricular frameworks, and materials, as well as teacher education, classroom implementation, and research and evaluation.

One program developed through Civitas is Project Citizen, a middle school level program on public policy in the United States. Project Citizen is now being used in more than fifty countries, and is one of the most effective programs in promoting the development of a political culture supportive of democratic values, principles, institutions, and participation.

Another important component of Civitas is the series of exchanges among leaders in civic education in the United States and those in emerging and established democracies worldwide. The purpose of the exchanges is for civic education leaders to learn from and assist each other in improving education for democracy in their home nations.

Therefore, I think it is an important step that for the first time the World Congress on Civic Education will be hosted in the Middle East. Joining the Center for Civic Education in hosting this year's World Congress is Arab Civitas—a regional network of nine Arab countries in the Middle East—and the Jordanian Center for Civic Education Studies.

Arab Civitas, which is funded through the Middle East Partnership Initiative at the State Department, administers a program of citizenship edu-

cation in elementary and secondary schools in the Middle East. Civic educators in Jordan, Egypt, the West Bank, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Yemen, Bahrain, and recently Saudi Arabia, work with the Center for Civic Education through Arab Civitas. The goal of the program is to help students understand and respect the core concepts of freedom and democracy such as free expression, pluralism and the rule of law, and human rights.

As the chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, it is my strong belief that many of the conflicts and problems in the world, and particularly in the Middle East, could be lessened by strong investments in education. I am particularly supportive of education programs which seek to improve tolerance and understanding of others. Thus, the theme of this year's congress is of particular interest to me: Advancing Peace and Stability through Active Citizenship.

Mr. President, I think we can all agree that this is exciting work that the Center for Civic Education is accomplishing. Its work in strengthening democracy, and promoting tolerance and moderation, in the United States and throughout the world, is admirable. I hope and expect the attendees will have a successful Ninth Annual World Congress on Civic Education.●

DEAF WEST THEATER PRODUCTION OF "BIG RIVER"

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I recently had the pleasure of attending a truly unique theater production at Ford's Theater—a production that is a testament to the Positive impact of Federal funding of the arts. The Deaf West Theater production of *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, in conjunction with the Roundabout Theater Company and the Mark Taper Forum, utilizes American Sign Language and a cast of hearing and deaf actors working seamlessly together to tell this classic Mark Twain story. The exceptional quality of this production was recognized with a 2004 Tony Honor for Excellence in the Theater.

This production of *Big River* is a superb example of how the performing arts can lead by example, in this case, by offering a dramatic example of people who bridge the gap between the deaf and hearing communities. Deaf and hearing actors are an integral part of the show. Deaf and hearing audiences have an equal opportunity to enjoy the production. And the perspective of deaf culture is seamlessly integrated into the performance.

Federal funding was critical in achieving these important goals. Authorization for grant funding of deaf theater has been in Federal law, in one form or another, since 1967. In the case of the current production of *Big River*, grants from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education

and Rehabilitative Services supported the training of deaf actors in the show, allowed the production to reach national audiences through touring, and helped to fund educational outreach.

I understand that our distinguished majority leader, Senator FRIST, recently saw the production, and was as dazzled by it as I was. So I encourage all of our colleagues, their families, and staffs to go see *Big River*, which will be at Ford's Theater until June 4. And I also encourage my colleagues to join with me in working to restore funding to keep Deaf West's work alive for audiences in the future.●

HONORING NEW IBERIA MAIN STREET

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I rise to honor a city from my home State of Louisiana and am delighted to recognize its achievement before this body.

The City of New Iberia, LA, was recently selected by The National Trust for Historic Preservation to receive a 2005 Great American Main Street Award. New Iberia won this prestigious award because of its successful downtown revitalization. In addition to being recognized as one of only five winning communities nationwide, New Iberia is the only community in Louisiana to ever receive this distinction. As a champion of sustainable and quality community development, I can personally attest to this well-deserved honor. New Iberia's Main Street creates a unique sense of place through the beauty of its architecture, landscaping, and natural integration with Bayou Teche. The residents of New Iberia identify with this special place, and it contributes to the quality of life and sense of community pride shared by them.

Founded in 1779, New Iberia was a prosperous antebellum community that matured into a modern city. By the mid 1960s, New Iberia's Main Street began experiencing decline typical of many communities in the United States at that time. Recognizing the role of Main Street in the life of a community, New Iberia's business leaders, elected officials, and citizens started a progressive downtown revitalization effort known as Operation Impact in the early 1970s. This focus on Main Street continued, and in the 1990s, New Iberia further enhanced its efforts by initiating an officially designated Main Street Program. The unified commitment, hard work, and enthusiasm of the people of New Iberia over nearly 40 years has reestablished their downtown as a vibrant nucleus of culture, commerce, and tourism. It has also fittingly earned them national acclaim.

In the few years since the Main Street Program began in New Iberia, the city has seen over 115 new businesses established, over 420 new jobs created, and more than \$19 million in private investment with total investment exceeding \$24 million.